

REMARKS**35 USC § 112**

Claims 88 and 103 have been reworded.

35 USC § 102

The Examiner rejected the claims in light of Pearce 5,994,450. This is an improper rejection as the present application claims priority to Pearce '450. The Examiner addresses this by stating that continuity of disclosure for the CIP is only found back to October 8, 2001. If that is the case, then by definition the specification of the '450 patent lacks disclosure of the claimed bleed-reducing agent, and therefore a rejection under Pearce '450 cannot be maintained. In other words, if the '450 patent does not disclose a bleed-reducing agent and therefore does not provide continuity of disclosure, then the '450 patent cannot be an anticipatory reference. But if the '450 patent does disclose the bleed reducing agent, then the priority claim is valid and the '450 patent cannot be used to reject the pending claims. Applicant believes continuity of a bleed reducing agent can be found all the way to the application that resulted in the '450 patent, or earlier. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Similarly, the rejection of the claims under USP 6,026,527 should be withdrawn for exactly the same reasons.

35 USC 102103

The Examiner rejected the pending claims over Allen (USP 5756195). There are two problems with this rejection. First, Allen was only published on May 26, 1998, long after Applicant's priority date. Applicant is entitled to rely on his priority date as his disclosure dating at least to January 10, 1997 because that disclosure included several techniques and compositions to reduce plasticizer bleed. Second, Allen does not disclose any of the chemicals that Applicant has claimed as a bleed reducing agent. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

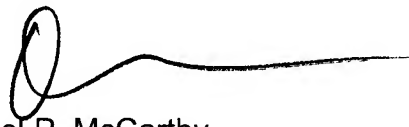
Double Patenting

A terminal disclaimer is enclosed.

Applicant believes the case is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is requested.

If any additional fees are due those fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0581.

Respectfully submitted this 23rd day of March, 2006.



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